

George Clinton "In Opposition to Destruction of States' Rights"

The... premises on which the new form of government is erected, declares a consolidation or union of all thirteen parts, or states, into one great whole... But whoever seriously considers the immense extent of territory comprehended within the limits of the United States, together with the variety of its climates, productions, and commerce,... and number of inhabitants in all... can never form a perfect union: this un-kindred legislature therefore, composed of interests opposite and dissimilar in nature, will in its exercise, emphatically be like a house divided against itself...

From this picture, what can you promise yourself, on the score of consolidation of the United States into one government? ...you risk much, by... placing trusts of the greatest magnitude, into the hands of individuals whose ambition for power,... will oppress and grind you where from the vast extent of your territory, and the complication of interests, the science of government will become intricate and perplexed, and too mysterious for you to understand and observe; and by which you are to be conducted into a monarchy...

1. Why did Clinton not think a closely united government would work for America?
2. What form of government did Clinton think the new United States would become?
3. How could Madison's use of factions be used to disagree with Clinton's view that the new government would not work?